

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C

In Re:)
)
Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an)
Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

RESPONSES OF BLUFFTON TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., TO SECOND SET OF
INTERROGATORIES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION
ASSOCIATION

Bluffton Telephone Company, Inc. (“Bluffton”), pursuant to the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure and the South Carolina Public Service Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (S.C. Code of Regulations R. 103-800, *et seq.*), respectfully submits the following responses to the Second Set of Interrogatories of the South Carolina Cable Television Association (“SCCTA”) served on March 30, 2004, as described and set forth below.

GENERAL OBJECTIONS

1. Bluffton objects to each Interrogatory to the extent it seeks to impose an obligation on Bluffton to respond on behalf of subsidiaries, affiliates, or other persons that are not parties to this proceeding on the grounds that such interrogatories and requests for production are overly broad, unduly burdensome, oppressive, and not permitted by applicable discovery rules. Bluffton will not be responding to discovery that seeks information from parent and affiliate companies.

2. Bluffton objects to the each Interrogatory to the extent it is intended to apply to matters other than those subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”). Bluffton objects to such Interrogatories as being irrelevant, overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive.

3. Bluffton objects to each Interrogatory to the extent that it calls for information that is exempt from discovery by virtue of the attorney-client privilege, work product privilege, or other applicable privilege.

4. Bluffton objects to each Interrogatory to the extent that it seeks to impose obligations on Bluffton that exceed the requirements of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, the Commission’s rules and regulations, or other South Carolina law.

5. In the course of its business, Bluffton creates numerous documents that are not subject to Commission or FCC retention of records requirements. Bluffton will make every reasonable attempt to identify documents in response to these requests by conducting a search of those files that are reasonably expected to contain the requested information. To the extent that the requests purport to require more, Bluffton objects on the grounds that compliance would impose an undue burden or expense.

6. Bluffton objects to each Interrogatory that seeks to obtain “all” of particular documents, items, or information to the extent that such requests are overly broad and unduly burdensome. Any answers provided by Bluffton in response to this discovery will be provided subject to, and without waiver of, the foregoing objection.

SPECIFIC RESPONSES

Without waiving any of the foregoing general objections, Bluffton responds to SCCTA's Interrogatories as follows:

INTERROGATORY NO. 1

State the maximum amount of the Universal Service Fund ("USF") funding approved for Bluffton in 2000.

RESPONSE:

None.

INTERROGATORY NO. 2

State the maximum amount of the USF funding approved for Bluffton at the present time.

RESPONSE:

See response to Interrogatory No. 3.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3

How much explicit funding did Bluffton receive from the South Carolina USF and any other source for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003? State the amount received from each source by year and identify the source.

RESPONSE:

Amounts received by Bluffton from the State USF from its inception through December 31, 2003 are as follows:

2001	\$ 22,844
2002	\$ 272,439
2003	\$ 439,371

Bluffton objects to this interrogatory to the extent it seeks information regarding funding "from any other source" on the grounds that such request is overly broad and that such information is irrelevant and does not appear reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The Commission has adopted Guidelines for South Carolina Universal Service Fund ("Guidelines") and South Carolina Universal Service Fund Administrative Procedures ("Administrative Procedures"), and no information regarding funding "from any other source" is relevant to determining whether Bluffton's request for additional State USF funding in this docket complies with the Commission's Guidelines or Administrative Procedures.

INTERROGATORY NO. 4

How much implicit support did Bluffton receive from any source for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003? State the amount received from each source by year and identify each source of implicit support.

RESPONSE:

Bluffton objects to this interrogatory to the extent that it seeks information regarding "implicit support" on the grounds that such information is irrelevant and does not appear reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The only information regarding implicit support that is relevant to this proceeding is the cost study Bluffton has already filed and made available to SCCTA pursuant to a Protective Agreement in this docket, which demonstrates the amount of implicit support contained within the rates which Bluffton seeks to reduce in this proceeding.

Additionally, Bluffton objects to this request on the grounds that responding to it would be unduly burdensome and expensive. It would not be possible to identify the amount of implicit support received from any given source without conducting expensive cost studies specific to each such individual source.

INTERROGATORY NO. 5

List each telecommunications service that Bluffton provided that generated implicit support for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003. For each such service state the amount of implicit support generated by such service by year.

RESPONSE:

See response to Interrogatory No. 4.

Substantive responses were provided by Emmanuel Staurulakis, President, John Staurulakis, Inc., Seabrook, Maryland. All objections to the foregoing interrogatories were provided by the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of April, 2004.

/s/

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